ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Recipient machine sends a contents request message with recipient's public key to entitlement granter machine. On the entitlement granter machine, digital rights data relevant to the contents request is encrypted with the recipient's public key. Encrypted digital rights data with the entitlement granter's digital signature thereon is returned to recipient machine. On the recipient machine, encrypted digital rights data is decrypted with the recipient's secret key. The recipient machine sends a message containing digital rights data thus decrypted, recipient's public key, and the above encrypted data to contents distributor machine. The contents distributor machine, after verifying the above digital signature, encrypts the received digital rights data with the recipient's public key, verifies the match between this encrypted data and the encrypted data existing in the message received, which authenticates the valid recipient, and encrypts contents data with the recipient's public key and send encrypted contents to the recipient machine.